

**To:** Phil North/R10/USEPA/US@EPA[]  
**From:** Petroleum News  
**Sent:** Fri 7/23/2010 9:50:23 PM  
**Subject:** Petroleum News Online Edition - Week of July 25, 2010

[Hotspot](#)

[whitelist that address](#)

[circulation@PetroleumNews.com](#)

[Hotspot](#)

[PDF of latest issue](#)

[Hotspot](#)

[Mining News](#)

[Hotspot](#)

[Arctic Oil & Gas Directory](#)

[Complete PDF Edition Week of July 25, 2010](#)

[Chukchi Sea on hold 07/25/2010](#)

[BP retains Prudhoe Bay 07/25/2010](#)

[Still in the Kitchen 07/25/2010](#)

[Apache acquires BP's Western Canada natural gas operations in Alberta, British Columbia 07/25/2010](#)

[Oil Patch Insider: TAPS a Gulf spill in making? Cade, Donkel hire former Exxon exec 07/25/2010](#)

[Waging a war of words 07/25/2010](#)

[BPA: Feds to permit wells on state lands 07/25/2010](#)

[Correction: If DEC had heeded Exxon, harm to environment, wildlife would have been less, but not minor 07/25/2010](#)

[Correction: TransCanada did not back away from Cook Inlet gas storage plan 07/25/2010](#)

[Continuing the development at Prudhoe 07/25/2010](#)

[Asia on Canada's radar screen 07/25/2010](#)

[Law to combat Mafia used in BP lawsuits 07/25/2010](#)

[AEA starting hydropower investigation 07/25/2010](#)

[ConocoPhillips: Taking aim at Beluga River unit 07/25/2010](#)

[Oil spill reported at Swanson River 07/25/2010](#)

[Aurora planning new Nicolai Creek well 07/25/2010](#)

[Apache picks up Cade-Donkel inlet leases 07/25/2010](#)

[Persily: demand key for Alaska gas line 07/25/2010](#)

[Bush DOI chiefs: Major spill not expected 07/25/2010](#)

[BP off death watch; future open question 07/25/2010](#)

[State objects to polar bear cost estimate 07/25/2010](#)

[Begich outlines AK priorities to Obama 07/25/2010](#)

[Kuparuk Transportation enlarging line 07/25/2010](#)

[Aurora Gas to bury gas gathering line 07/25/2010](#)

[Oil Patch Bits: Guess & Rudd law firm celebrates 50th anniversary 07/25/2010](#)

[Oil Patch Bits: Kuukpiq purchases rig and consolidates ownership 07/25/2010](#)

[OCS lease sale program still under appeal 07/25/2010](#)

[Mining News: Fortymile resonates with Rolling Thunder 07/25/2010](#)

[Mining News: Coal miner advances Wishbone Hill 07/25/2010](#)

[Mining News: Kensington joins ranks of big producers 07/25/2010](#)

[Mining News: Superior court weighs in on Pebble case 07/25/2010](#)

[Mining News: Thompson Creek agrees to buy B.C. junior 07/25/2010](#)

[Mining News: Explorers return to former gold diggings 07/25/2010](#)

[Mining News: REEs become rarer on China export cuts 07/25/2010](#)

[Mining News: Kensington opening benefits Coeur, Juneau 07/25/2010](#)

[Mining News: Geo-mapping Far North pays dividends 07/25/2010](#)

[Mining News: In-depth Pebble study nears completion 07/25/2010](#)

TO: Phillip North EPA

Petroleum News Online Edition - Week of July 25, 2010

A weekly oil & gas newspaper based in Anchorage, Alaska

\*\* To ensure delivery of our publication, be sure to add our sending address, [circulation@petroleumnews.com](mailto:circulation@petroleumnews.com) to your e-mail address book and also please whitelist that address to further ensure delivery.

Below are headlines from next week's edition of Petroleum News, a link to the latest Mining News, as well as a link to our latest Arctic Oil & Gas Directory.

Check your spam/junk folder for an email from our sister publication, Greening of Oil ([www.greeningofoil.com](http://www.greeningofoil.com)), which you have started receiving weekly in a separate email as part of your Petroleum News subscription.

To ensure delivery to your Inbox, add Greening's sending address [publisher@PetroleumNews.com](mailto:publisher@PetroleumNews.com) to your email program's address book and to your spam software program's approved list.

This email is being sent to you as part of your weekly subscription to Petroleum News. For changes/comments, contact us at [circulation@PetroleumNews.com](mailto:circulation@PetroleumNews.com) or 907-522-9469.

Thank you,  
Petroleum News, circulation dept.  
-----

PDF of latest issue  
Mining News  
Arctic Oil & Gas Directory

Below are articles from this week's edition of Petroleum News.

Complete PDF Edition  
Week of July 25, 2010

**Chukchi Sea on hold 07/25/2010** A judge in the U.S. District Court for Alaska has put a hold on activities stemming from the 2008 U.S. Minerals Management Service Chukchi Sea lease sale in which oil companies paid out \$2.6 billion in bonus bids. Shell and ConocoPhillips plan to drill in the Chukchi Sea in leases purchased in the s....

**BP retains Prudhoe Bay 07/25/2010** A purported deal whereby troubled BP would sell perhaps half its stake in Alaska's huge Prudhoe Bay oil field to Apache Corp. apparently has crumbled. The two firms did announce a major transaction on July 20, but none of the properties involved are in Alaska. The idea that BP would sell part of Pru....

**Still in the Kitchen 07/25/2010** Alaska officials are giving Escopeta one more chance at the Kitchen Lights unit. In a decision released July 19, the Division of Oil and Gas chose to put the offshore Cook Inlet unit in default, rather than terminate it. Unit operator Escopeta failed to meet two work commitments it agreed to in 2009....

**Apache acquires BP's Western Canada natural gas operations in Alberta, British Columbia 07/25/2010**  
By rounding up embattled BP's natural gas operations in Western Canada, Apache has strengthened its

role as one of Canada's largest gas producers at a time when it is at the forefront of plans to open up markets in Asia for gas from British Columbia and Alberta. The big Houston-based independent wil....

Oil Patch Insider: TAPS a Gulf spill in making? Cade, Donkel hire former Exxon exec 07/25/2010 BP owns the largest share of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline. BP officials have often held top positions at Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., which operates the 800-mile pipeline. BP is facing increasing scrutiny for the way it manages its infrastructure and facilities. Therefore ... That "therefore" came u....

Waging a war of words 07/25/2010 It's turning into a battle for hearts and minds that has no parallel in the history of Canada's petroleum industry and is overshadowed on a global scale only by BP's tattered and bruised image. The end prize is the future of developing and marketing production from the Alberta bitumen deposits, gene....

BPA: Feds to permit wells on state lands 07/25/2010 A major oil spill occurs in federal waters — under federal regulatory jurisdiction — and the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee decides to take away the rights of states and private property owners to regulate oil and gas wells on their lands. Canada Free Press calls the U.S. Blowout Preventio....

Correction: If DEC had heeded Exxon, harm to environment, wildlife would have been less, but not minor 07/25/2010 The lead sentence in the July 18 edition article, "State of Alaska culprit in 1989 spill," said that if Exxon had received an open burn permit from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation in a timely manner, "almost all" of the 11 million gallons of spilled crude oil could have been inci....

Correction: TransCanada did not back away from Cook Inlet gas storage plan 07/25/2010 An article in the July 18 issue of Petroleum News about a proposed new gas storage facility on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula incorrectly stated that TransCanada, a subsidiary of which had planned to build and operate the facility, had backed away from the gas storage project. The article reported on a me....

Continuing the development at Prudhoe 07/25/2010 The Prudhoe Bay oil field at the fulcrum of Alaska's North Slope oil industry is so large that, even after more than 30 years of operation, development activity at the field continues apace, squeezing as much product as possible from the field's 254 square miles of underground reservoir. According t....

Asia on Canada's radar screen 07/25/2010 Canadian oil sands producers and shippers are increasingly attracted to markets beyond the United States, according to pipeline executives, bolstered by the latest statistics that have seen China outstrip the U.S. as the world's largest energy consumer. A TD Newcrest-sponsored oil sands forum in Cal....

Law to combat Mafia used in BP lawsuits 07/25/2010 Using a law originally enacted to combat the Mafia, attorneys are filing lawsuits accusing BP PLC and Transocean Ltd. of committing a long-term series of crimes by concealing flaws in deepwater drilling plans and lacking safeguards to contain a catastrophic Gulf of Mexico spill. BP has been named i....

AEA starting hydropower investigation 07/25/2010 The Alaska Energy Authority is seeking a consultant to manage an investigation into potential hydropower projects that may qualify for state funding. In December, AEA published a draft Alaska Railbelt integrated resource plan that proposed a major shift toward hydropower for future power generation....

ConocoPhillips: Taking aim at Beluga River unit 07/25/2010 ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc. has submitted a plan to federal land managers to improve the performance of the Beluga River unit, for decades a vital source of natural gas for powering the state's main population center. The plan involves installing compressors to boost capacity at several of the well p....

Oil spill reported at Swanson River 07/25/2010 A crude oil spill from an undetermined source at the Swanson River oil field in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge was discovered by a power pole survey crew

the afternoon of July 20. Chevron, the field operator, reported the spill to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation later that d....

Aurora planning new Nicolai Creek well 07/25/2010 Aurora Gas is planning to drill a gas development well at the Nicolai Creek unit. The local independent, which operates five natural gas fields on the west side of Cook Inlet, is permitting the Nicolai Creek Unit No. 10 well. Because the proposed well would be within 3,000 feet of a well capable of....

Apache picks up Cade-Donkel inlet leases 07/25/2010 Apache Corp. has been rumored to be interested in acquiring Alaska acreage, and while a portion of BP's interest in Prudhoe Bay was not included in acquisitions announced July 20 (see story on page 1 of this issue), Apache is acquiring almost 200,000 acres in the Cook Inlet basin. Asked about the p....

Persily: demand key for Alaska gas line 07/25/2010 Is there a gas line to the Lower 48 in Alaska's future? Federal Coordinator Larry Persily, Office of the Federal Coordinator, said at a July 20 press briefing in Anchorage that it depends on market demand for gas. "Americans want cleaner fuels, they're paying attention to climate change," and there....

Bush DOI chiefs: Major spill not expected 07/25/2010 Two former Interior secretaries told Congress July 20 they did not anticipate an accident as large as the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. But Gale Norton and Dirk Kempthorne say no one else did either — including members of Congress who are now blaming the Bush administration for failing to prev....

BP off death watch; future open question 07/25/2010 The future of BP PLC has shifted in recent days from a death-watch discussion to a debate about how valuable the British oil giant will be after it finishes paying for the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history. BP gained temporary control of its broken well in the Gulf of Mexico on July 15 and i....

State objects to polar bear cost estimate 07/25/2010 The State of Alaska has objected to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's estimate of \$669,000 as the total cost over a 29-year period of the critical habitat designation for the polar bear. The critical habitat designation followed the 2008 listing of the animals as threatened under the Endangered S....

Begich outlines AK priorities to Obama 07/25/2010 In a July 14 letter to President Obama, Sen. Mark Begich outlined Alaska's energy priorities, as part of a dialogue over federal energy policy and energy legislation. "Energy is a leading concern of my constituents for two keys reasons," Begich said. "Alaskans already pay the nation's highest energy....

Kuparuk Transportation enlarging line 07/25/2010 Kuparuk Transportation Co. is standardizing the pipeline size of the Kuparuk Pipeline Extension and installing a pig launcher and receiver to meet standards for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Integrity Management Program. The project began last year when the Regulatory Commission of Alaska....

Aurora Gas to bury gas gathering line 07/25/2010 Aurora Gas LLC has applied to the state for permits to bury the temporary above-ground gathering line for the Nicolai Creek No. 11 well. A fuel gas line and electrical conduit would be buried in the same trench, according to a state notice on an application for a gas line easement. The company sai....

Oil Patch Bits: Guess & Rudd law firm celebrates 50th anniversary 07/25/2010 Guess & Rudd P.C. is celebrating its 50th year of practicing law in Alaska. With law offices located in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Guess & Rudd provides experienced legal representation throughout Alaska in practice areas that include natural resources law, administrative law, mining law, environmenta....

Oil Patch Bits: Kuukpik purchases rig and consolidates ownership 07/25/2010 Kuukpik Corp. said July 19 that it has completed transactions for the purchase of Kuukpik Rig No. 5 from Saxon Energy Services

Inc. and the purchase of the minority ownership of Kuukpik Drilling LLC from the corporation's partners. Kuukpik Drilling LLC is now wholly owned by Kuukpik Corp., with all....

OCS lease sale program still under appeal 07/25/2010 A case in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, appealing the entire MMS 2007-12 outer continental shelf lease sale program, including the 2008 Chukchi Sea lease sale, has yet to be resolved. In an April 2009 ruling in that appeal, the D.C. court said that MMS had not done an adequ....

Mining News: Fortymile resonates with Rolling Thunder 07/25/2010 FORTYMILE – The storm clouds responsible for the torrential rains that recently washed away long sections of the Taylor Highway are not the only source of rumbling in the Fortymile region of eastern Interior Alaska. Full Metal Minerals Ltd. has launched the Rolling Thunder Project here this summer.....

Mining News: Coal miner advances Wishbone Hill 07/25/2010 With access granted and exploration permit in hand, Usibelli Coal Mine Inc. has started a drill program at its Wishbone Hill property 10 miles northeast of Palmer, Alaska. The fourth-generation, family-owned company said the estimated 14 million tons of bituminous coal at Wishbone Hill can fill an....

Mining News: Kensington joins ranks of big producers 07/25/2010 Two seminal events related to the Alaska mining industry occurred in the past month. First, in late June, Coeur d'Alene Mines Corp. reported the commencement of production at its Kensington gold mine near Juneau. The mine has now joined the ranks of large-scale producers here in Alaska but only afte....

Mining News: Superior court weighs in on Pebble case 07/25/2010 On July 9 Alaska's Superior Court entered an order in a case now pending against the state's Department of Natural Resources concerning the propriety of a series of multiple land use permits and temporary water rights permits that had been issued to the Pebble Limited Partnership and its predecessor....

Mining News: Thompson Creek agrees to buy B.C. junior 07/25/2010 Thompson Creek Metals Co. Inc. and Terrane Metals Corp. said they have completed a definitive agreement for the Denver-based molybdenum producer to purchase Terrane Metals with cash and stock valued at about C\$650 million. The deal, which won approval of both Thompson Creek and Terrane's boards of....

Mining News: Explorers return to former gold diggings 07/25/2010 Though most of the gold fever sweeping northern Canada these days is focused on Yukon Territory's White Gold district to the west and near Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s new Meadowbank Mine to the east in Nunavut, a growing number of explorers are trekking to the territory in between. Mining companies a....

Mining News: REEs become rarer on China export cuts 07/25/2010 China, which mines the majority of the global supply of rare earth elements within its borders, has, over recent years, increasingly restricted its exports of the unique minerals to non-China-based production facilities. This trend has continued with a July announcement that the Far East country int....

Mining News: Kensington opening benefits Coeur, Juneau 07/25/2010 In June 2009, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a 6-3 ruling that upheld a tailings disposal permit for the Kensington gold mine near Juneau. Owner Coeur d'Alene Mines Corp. fired up Kensington's mill June 24, one year and two days after the high court made its decision. "The startup of productio....

Mining News: Geo-mapping Far North pays dividends 07/25/2010 As we contemplate manned space flights to Mars, it may be hard to believe that there are still vast areas of the earth's surface that we have yet to explore. Believe it. The world's knowledge of the geology of Canada's Far North is very limited. To fill this knowledge gap, Canada's federal governm....

Mining News: In-depth Pebble study nears completion 07/25/2010 PEBBLE — Pebble Partnership CEO John Shively opened his June 21 presentation to the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Make it Monday Forum with the query, "How many people here have heard of the Pebble Mine Project?" The room

resonated with laughter in response to Shively's rhetorical question. Though e....

account: 52207

Email: north.phil@epa.gov